

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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# IOWA HISTORIAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

## Iowa History Month Kicks Off March 1



As we commemorate **Iowa's 175th anniversary** throughout this year, we're recognizing Iowa History Month in March with a number of special programs and events. Here are a few ways you can join the month-long celebration:

**Visit a new exhibition called "Iowa's People and Places,"** which opens March 5 at the State Historical Museum of Iowa and explores more than 13,000 years of history with artifacts from across the state. Safety protocols are in place, so please bring a mask or pick up a freebie at the main entrance.

**Preview:** Tune in online at noon March 2 for a sneak peek, when State Curator Leo Landis leads an "Iowa History 101" presentation called **"Stories from the Iowa People and Places Exhibit."** The program is free but registration is required.

**Watch more "Iowa History 101"** programsonline at noon each Tuesday and Thursday throughout March to learn about notable names from the past, including Inkpadata, Emir Abd El-Kader, Donna Reed and others. The hour-long presentations by leading scholars and curators are free, but registration is required.



Get a head start on history month with this "Iowa History 101" presentation, at noon Feb. 25: Genealogist Ricki King discusses **"Iowa's Black Migration: Into, Around, Out Of, and Back Again."** King owns Roots to Branches Genealogy and will lead an educational journey through Iowa's Black history to show why African Americans have moved to and around and out of Iowa over the years.

**Join us for "100 Years of Donna Reed,"** another "Iowa History 101" presentation on March 25, when Reed's daughter, Mary Owen of Iowa City, will share rarely

seen family photos from her mother's early days in Denison. Reed's career includes her Academy Award-winning performance in "From Her to Eternity" (1953) and "The Donna Reed Show" (1958-1966), for which she won a Golden Globe and four Emmy Award nominations. She's best known, of course, as Mary Bailey in "It's a Wonderful Life" (1946), which marks its 75th anniversary this year.



Other programs during Iowa History Month include **"Iowa Stories," Iowa History Book Club, Goldies' Kids Club**, plus an opportunity to schedule an **Iowa trivia program** for your club or organization's next meeting. And, you'll be able to purchase an **"Iowa: History Happens Here" t-shirt** from Raygun beginning March 1.

LEARN MORE ABOUT IOWA HISTORY MONTH PROGRAMS

## 'Iowa Stories' Online Series

Since 2007, more than 70 historians have shared their knowledge on a wide and diverse number of topics at the State Historical Society of Iowa Research Center in Iowa City. Now, you can log in and enjoy new programs in the popular "Iowa Stories" series, which re-starts online this week. Register in advance for any of the sessions in the next lineup:



### **Feb. 18: "Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad History"**

In the 1850s and '60s, Iowans became infected with "railroad fever," a condition that sparked several trans-state projects. Learn all about it from Iowa native and Clemson University Professor H. Roger Grant.

### **Feb. 25: "Communal Societies Established in Iowa"**

Iowans have established many communal societies over the years to create their own version of utopia. Communal societies expert Peter Hoehnle will discuss some of the well-known and not-so-well-known communities, including the Amana Colonies, Clydesdale Colony, Communia, Icarian Colonies, Iowa Pioneer Phalanx and Salubria.

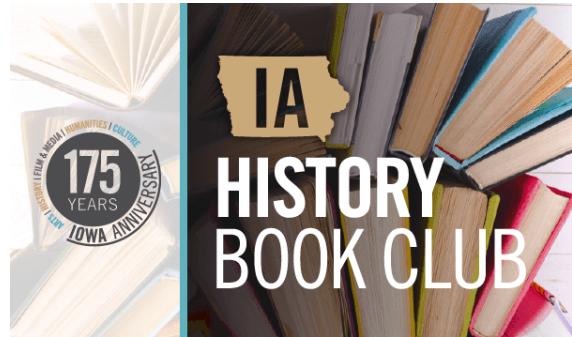
### **March 17: "The Cherry Sisters: The Best Worst Act in the World"**

Not so long ago, five sisters from Marion rose from poverty and obscurity to become one of the most famous (and infamous) vaudeville acts of all time. Learn more about the fascinating story from their biographer, Darryl Bullock, who will share photos, posters, theatrical scripts and more from the State Historical Society of Iowa's collections.

LEARN MORE AND VIEW PAST PROGRAMS

## Iowa History Book Club Begins March 11

The history of Iowa has been captured and chronicled in many books over the years. Dig into a few of the best with the new **Iowa History Book Club**, led by *The Annals of Iowa* editor Andrew Klumpp. The club's first quarterly, online meeting is set for 7 p.m. March 11, to discuss "**Iowa: The Middle Land**" by the legendary historian Dorothy Schwieder.



[LEARN MORE & REGISTER](#)



[LEARN MORE AND SUBSCRIBE](#)

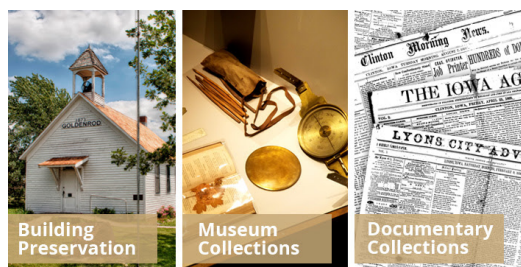
### History, Hot Off the Press

Enjoy the latest issue of *The Annals of Iowa*, which examines how residents of one Iowa town played a pivotal role in the campaign to ban genetically engineered food. Gregory Grohman's in-depth article "Transcending Transgenics" uncovers this history from the 1990s and early 2000s.

A second feature, by Daniel R. Maher, looks at how the Vesterheim museum in Decorah has fostered pride in the community's Norwegian heritage and, more broadly, promoted cultural diversity. The article shows how a series of deliberate choices by people and organizations has informed the museum's collections, exhibitions, programs and outreach.

## Grants for Historic Preservation, Education and Research

Sharpen up your grant-writing skills: We're now accepting grant applications for the upcoming fiscal year, which begins July 1.



### Historical Resource Development Program

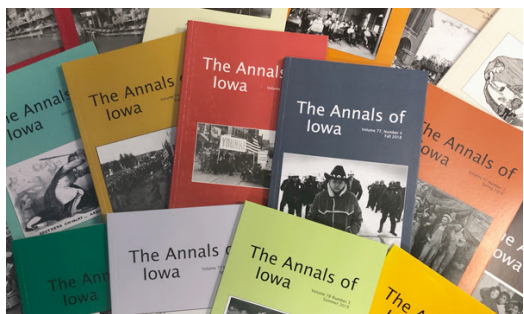
This program provides up to \$50,000 for the preservation, conservation and interpretation of history by encouraging individuals and organizations to educate the public about historical resources,



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including historic buildings, museum collections and documentary materials.

**Deadline: May 3**

### Country School Grant

The Country School grant provides up to \$5,000 for the preservation and maintenance of Iowa's one- and two-room country schools. The funds also may be used for interpreting the history of country schools or for educational activities taking place in a country school.

**Deadline: May 3**

### Research Grant for Authors

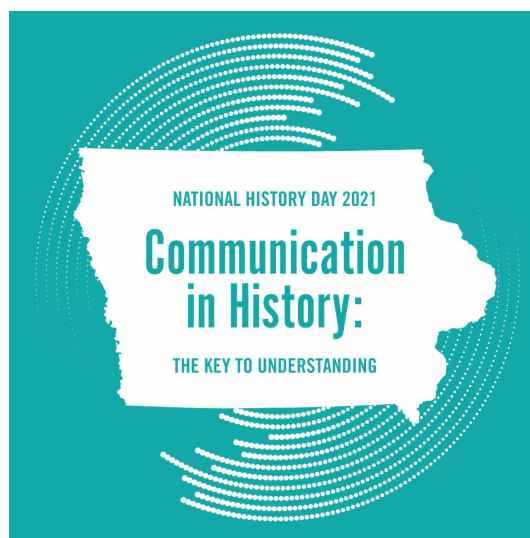
The Research Grant for Authors supports historical research and interpretive writing on topics related to Iowa history. Proposals that pursue neglected topics or new approaches to more familiar topics will receive preference. Grant recipients will be expected to produce a manuscript to be considered for publication by *The Annals of Iowa*.

**Deadline: April 15**

## Judges Needed for National History Day

Virtual volunteers needed! We're looking for judges to evaluate student projects for the 2021 **National History Day in Iowa** virtual contest season.

Haven't volunteered before? No problem! Judges work in teams and receive online training before the contest. **Judges can sign up** and select a district contest that works best for their schedule. If you have questions, please contact **vania.boland@iowa.gov**.



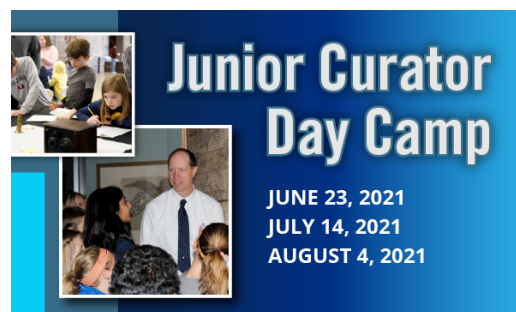
SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER!

## Register for Summer Programs Now



### Young Writers' Workshop

The **Young Writers' Workshop** returns this summer for a week of exciting adventure. Students entering grades 7-12 will work with a nationally known young adult author to hone and refine their writing skills using artifacts, exercises, research and storytelling tips. The students will end the week by giving a performance of their stories. The five-day workshop is set for **June 14-18**.



### Junior Curator Day Camp

Young historians in grades 4-6 can learn what it takes to run a museum during the **Junior Curator Day Camp**. They'll explore the role of curators, conservators and exhibition designers by investigating artifacts, exploring the State Historical Museum of Iowa's collection and learning about Iowa history. Students also will design their own exhibit. The single-day camps are offered **June 23**, **July 14** or **Aug. 4**.

REGISTER NOW!

## Board Nominations due March 1



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The State Historical Society of Iowa seeks nominations for members to serve on its **board of trustees**. Nominations can be submitted by anyone, but nominees must be members of the society, willing to attend five meetings per year and serve on various committees. **Nominations are due March 1**.

## Preservation Iowa Announces Most Endangered Properties

Preservation Iowa recently designated seven properties across the state as its 2021 Most Endangered Properties, including one that was demolished during this year's nomination process:

**Adel:** Adel Wagon Bridge

**Beaconsfield:** Community Building (site of the first Hy-Vee Store)



**Bentonsport:** Des Moines River Navigation Co. Locks  
**Coggon:** Historic Coggon School Building  
**Council Bluffs:** St. Patrick Catholic Church and Rectory (demolished)  
**Greenfield:** Old Carnegie Library  
**Waterloo:** Rath Administration Building

The program began in 1995 to help Iowans learn about endangered buildings and historic sites across the state. Since then, Preservation Iowa has designated more than 150 homes, archaeological sites, landscapes, commercial buildings and other properties.

LEARN MORE ABOUT PRESERVATION IOWA

## Programs & Events

Extended to May 9: [Iowa Culture Mobile app featured Tour: 20 Artists, 20 Parks](#)

Feb. 18: ["Iowa Stories: Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad History"](#)

Feb. 23: [The Prairie School in Iowa \(virtual tours 2 & 3\)](#)

Feb. 25: ["Iowa History 101: Iowa's Black Migration"](#)

Feb. 25: ["Iowa Stories: Communal Societies Established in Iowa"](#)

March 2: ["Iowa History 101: Stories from the Iowa's People and Places Exhibit"](#)

March 5: [Exhibit opening: "Iowa's People and Places"](#)

March 6: ["History Mystery: Live from the Museum Vault"](#)

March 11: [Iowa History Book Club](#)

March 17: ["Iowa Stories: The Cherry Sisters: The Best Worst Act in the World"](#)

March 25: ["Iowa History 101: 100 Years of Donna Reed"](#)

April 3: ["History Mystery: Live from the Museum Vault"](#)

May 1: ["History Mystery: Live from the Museum Vault"](#)

June 14-18: [Young Writers' Workshop](#)

June 23: [Junior Curator Day Camp](#)

July 14: [Junior Curator Day Camp](#)

Aug. 4: [Junior Curator Day Camp](#)

## Grants & Nominations

March 1: [State Historical Society of Iowa Board of Trustees Nominations](#)

March 1: [Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors](#)

March 1: [Johanna Favrot Fund for Historic Preservation](#)

March 15: [National Fund for Sacred Places](#)

April 15: [Research Grant for Authors](#)

May 3: [Historical Resource Development Grant](#)

May 3: [Country School Grant](#)

*Please check our online calendar for more events and opportunities across the state.*

VISIT OUR CALENDAR

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State Historical Society of Iowa | [iowaculture.gov/history](http://iowaculture.gov/history)